grant Statehood to Goa, may I know from the hon. Minister that when Diu and Daman are just adjacent to Gujarat and Goa is adjacent to Maharashtra, is there any proposal to join Goa with Maharashtra and Diu and Daman with Gujarat?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question is out of order.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: No, if Statehood is not accepted, then why should it not be answered? It should be answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I will not allow.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, if Statehood is not accepted, is there any proposal like this? Let the Minister answer yes or no.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you hear me? The question is when are you giving Statehood to Goa? You say, Statehood should not be given to Goa. It should be merged with some other State. Therefore, it is out of order.

Now, Mr. Narayanasamy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I may be permitted to put a related question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Home Minister when I wrote a letter relating to Statehood for Pondicherry replied that the population is the criterion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this is also out of order.

श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला : चेयरमैन सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जनता के नाम कहा जाता है कि गोआ के लोग इस अभिप्राय के हैं कि अपना शासन अलग कर एक राज्य हो। क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ऐसे राज्यों को विशेष छूट देती है कोई इन्कम टैक्स, सेल्ज टैक्स या ऐसे टैक्सेज के बारे में जिस से कि लोगों को अलग रहने में अपना आनन्द हो या निजी अस्तित्व का सवाल हो, जैसे दीव एवं दमन का सवाल है। गुजरात ड्राई एरिया है, पीने के लिए उनको अलग चाहिए। एक ही मामला उसमें है। वह कोई लौजिक नहीं है। तो केन्द्रीय सरकार की क्या सुविधायें वहां के लिए मिलती हैं जिस से कि वे अलग रहना चाहते हैं?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Sir, I hope, the hon. Member means that Daman and Diu should be separate.

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: The problem is not like that. Why people are interested to have their own identity and which kind of benefit the Central Government is giving to that particular territory?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Sir, so far as Union territory is concerned, we are giving all kinds of help to develop all the Union territories. Recently, I visited Dadra, Nagar Haveli and Daman and found that they have developed so well.

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: There is no development.

Purchase of a Supercomputer from USA

*83. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:†
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's response to the reported US offer of an old model supercomputer instead of the latest version that India has been seeking for long range weather forecasting;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Veena Verma.

(b) what safeguards India has agreed to in the talks with U.S. Officials; and

(c) whether the Government of India propose to purchase a giant supercomputer from Japan to meet their requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The US offer for the sale of a supercomputer to India is presently under examination by Government;

(b) No final agreement on the terms and conditions has been concluded.

(c) Government will continue to examine all possible options for the import of a supercomputer as necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand he was engrossed in Goa....

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Thank you, Sir. I cannot answer the question which I would like to.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while negotiating for the purchase of supercomputer, is the Government also negotiating for the transfer of its technology and if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI): Sir, we would very much like to have a technology of that order. But it seems, under the existing conditions, the United States does not find it suitable for itself, in its own interest, to transfer technology of such a high order. But it shall be the endeavour in the future.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, this issue has generated a lot of interest and controversy. As far as I know, while the US has offered X-MP-14, our Government asked the latest set of the Art model of X-MP-24. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the difference between X-MP-14 and XMP124 and Fibre 205? How far X-MP-14 meets our requirements? I would like to know further whether the U.S. offer to upgrade the model offered just now and what is the difficulty U.S. is facing in giving us X-MP-24 when the technology of the two models is the same. Secondly, whether the Government will ask USSR for supercomputer.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Sir, this question of having a supercomputer from the United States has been under discussion since early 1986. In February, 1986, the U.S. Government conveyed a decision in principle to authorise the import of supercomputers to India subject to mutual satisfactory safeguards being worked out by officials of both sides. In August, 1986, this offer was confirmed by President Reagan to our Prime Minister. Now, recently, the U.S. Government has conveyed its approval for offer of sale to India under agreed safeguards a choice of three models, CDC-205, Cray-1 and Cray X-MP-14. Now, we have issued a letter of intent in December, 1986 for Cray X-MP-24. The difference between these two supercomputers is that while the Cray X-MP-24 has an additional capacity of having two processors under the latest set of Art technology ,Cray X-MP-14 has the capability of only one processor. The technology is the same. Only the difference is that the Cray X-MP-24 has two processors while Cray X-MP-14 has one processor. The United States say that for our purposes, the technology being the

same basically, Cray X-MP-14 will serve the purpose. As is perhaps known to this august House, our objective is to have a supercomputer for making it possible to have a custom tailored weather forecast. At present, the weather forecasts that are issued are relatively short range time forecast for the next 24 hours with outlook for further 48 hours covering a period of next three days. But if we have a supercomputer, we shall have an agricultural contingency planning on operation scale four to ten days in advance. Recently, developments in computers, telecommunications and numerical modelling indicates that it could be feasible to prognosticate the development of weather system for four to ten days in advance. So, we have prepared a project to help the farmers of the country. We are looking forward for supercomputers for this main purpose and of course, other purposes will follow. So, the United States say that this Super Computer Cray X-MP-24 is relevant for our purposes to meet our requirements. So now their offer has been technically evaluated and only after a very careful technical evaluation will we able to decide whether or not the United States' offer is acceptable to us. Now the United States has asked ofr certain safeguards as far as the super computer technology is concerned...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are anticipating questions now.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: No, I am not anticipating. It was only inherent in his question and I was replying to it. Anyway, I accept your verdict.

I was mentioning that as far as Soviet Union is concerned, when an academician, Mr. Marchuk, was here last month, he made an offer of a super computer on behalf of the Soviet Union...

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: What is the type and utility of that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: One man cannot exhaust all the information on the subject. I call Prof. Ramachandra Rao.

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: The Minister has mentioned about the offer of three types of computers from USA. I understand the Japanese computer companies and also those computer companies in Canada have also the capability to produce super computers of a similar order. So my first question is whether the Government has explored the possibility of getting similar computers from Japan and Canada. Secondly, is it a fact that the United States Government is exerting all its influence to see that similar computers from Japan and Canada are not sold to us?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: We are aware of negotiations being carried on betwen the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and a Japanese corporation regarding supply of super computers to the Institute. There is, we are informed, an agreement between Japan and United States regarding sale of super computers in which certain types of super computers cannot be sold by Japan to other countries. I think that is one of the difficulties which is now handicaping this sort of transferred of these super computers to the Institute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any from Canada?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: No information from Canada.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: My question relates to Soviet Union. How super is the offer of a super computer from Soviet Union. Is it comparable to the offer from the United States and why have we not approached them? Did we imagine that they did

not have such super computers and that they were carying on without such super computers? Why have we not approached them and tried to have them on competitive terms?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Well, it is difficult at the technical level to evaluate and compare the super computers available in the Soviet Union and the United States. It is a very technical matter. But we do know that the Soviet Union has a super computer which is called Albaruz. I was in Moscow a few weeks back and I was told about this computer. They are also developing it further. As for Academician Marchuks offer of such a super computer, it is for the technical department concern to take a stand on that.

National Wastelands Development Board

*34. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when the National Wasteland Development Board was set up;

(b) what are the functions of the Board;

(c) whether the Board has issued any guidelines for the development of wasteland; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The National Wastelands Development Board was set up in May, 1985

(b) The primary functions of the Board are to formulate policies, strategies to halt deforestation, to increase afforestation, to promote fodder and fuelwood plantation to meet the needs of the people and to develop a pople's movement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A summary of the Guidelines issued is placed on the Table of the House as statement

Statement

Wasteland Development Programme Guidelines for Action

1. Small farmers and landless persons may be given a vested interest in the growing and protection of trees.

2. The extent of wastelands may be classified into 3 broad categories of land; firstly land officially classified as forest, secondly wastelands within the boundary of privately owned lands and thirdly wastelands on public lands.

3. Identification of wastelands should be done on a systematic village basis.

4. The nature of degradation must be determined with reference to the present status of soil and the extent of availability of water.

5. The species appropriate to the soil and climatic conditions of different parts of the country need to be selected.

6. The selection of species must take into account the degree of degradation and the likely availability of water in a normal year.

7. To encourage the grant of Tree Pattas.

8. Committee of villagers may be entrusted with the plantation work and a clear procedure should be laid down as to the distribution of usufructuary rights.

9. Nurseries must be decentralised in a given time-frame.

10. Kisan nurseries, school nurseries, etc. may be promoted.